23h00. The female arrived within minutes, staying on the nest past 01h00. When the male left the nest on the evening of 14 September, I saw that the chick had hatched. The male returned two minutes later, gathered the eggshells into its mouth and flew away with them. The chick appeared like a puff of white wool (Plate 1, taken on 16 September). On 21 September, the eyes, and the feathers in the wing, were first noticeable.

On 24 September, I stayed the whole night to observe parental behaviour. Between 18h45 and 21h30, both birds came to the nest to feed the chick, staying for about 5–10 minutes. From 21h30 until 04h40, the birds took turns at the nest, staying for about two hours at a time. After 04h40 the birds again fed rapidly. The male bird returned to the nest to stay at 06h15. I saw that the chick's eyes were open on this day, and the feathers, which were still small, appeared reddish-brown.

On 29 September, the chick filled the entire nest, and was clearly visible underneath the male bird during the daytime (Plate 2, taken on 6 October). The chick now appeared like a miniature version of the female bird. At 19h00 on 9 October 2003, I arrived at the nest to find that the chick had left. Then at 20h30 the male removed the entire nest, which fell to the base of the tree. I had noticed previous nesting attempts on this same branch in August 2002 and February 2003 that may or may not have been successful; repeated use of the same location may necessitate removal of the nest in order not to attract the attention of predators.

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An incident of elevational displacement of birds at Bukit Fraser, Peninsular Malaysia

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During a field stay at Bukit Fraser (Pahang, Peninsular Malaysia) from 31 July to 3 August 2003, 11 bird species were observed far above their usual elevational limits. Remarkably, most of these sightings were on a single day, 1 August 2003, even though I spent a similar length of time in the field on other days. This day was sunny and dry, although on subsequent days there was light drizzle and overcast skies at Bukit Fraser. Here I list the notable elevational records, in order of their unusualness. Unless stated otherwise, the sightings refer to 1 August 2003. I have previous field experience (often considerable) of all these species.

Rail-babbler *Eupetes macrocerus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,005 m (Robson 2000). One silent bird was seen well (for 5 seconds at 5 m distance) in the forest edge on a rocky roadside embankment at 1,400 m along the closed road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser. The bird had presumably crossed the road on its way to higher, wetter elevations.

Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax*
Usual upper elevational limit: 250 m (Robson 2000). One silent individual was seen perched in a tree near the upper end of the open road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,475 m. The diagnostic field marks of this species, including the tail pattern, were seen well.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 760 m (Robson 2000). A male was seen perched in a tree near the High Pines in Bukit Fraser Village at 1,525 m on 31 July 2003.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 825 m (Robson 2000). A female was seen along the upper stretches of the open road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,450 m. The bird was seen well for extended periods of time.

Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,065 m (Robson 2000). Three (possibly four) individuals seen well and heard near the lower end of the open road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,350 m.

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,220 m (Robson 2000). A flock of four, containing at least one female, was seen overhead from the upper stretches of the open road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,450 m. (Robson

2000). All important field marks, including the characteristic tail pattern, were noted.

ORANGE-BREASTED TROGON *Harpactes oreskios*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,220 m (Robson 2000). A female was seen towards the upper end of the open road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,450 m.

RED-BILLED MALKOHA *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,200 m (Robson 2000). One was watched for extended periods of time along the road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,450 m.

RED-EYED BULBUL *Pycnonotus brunneus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,000 m (Robson 2000). Three adults were seen in degraded roadside vegetation towards the lower end of the closed road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,350 m. The birds were seen well for more than a minute and all the important field marks, including the eye-colour, which rules out confusion with similar species such as Spectacled Bulbul *P. erythropthalmos* or Cream-vented Bulbul *P. simplex*, were noted.

SCALY-BREASTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus squamatus*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,000 m (Robson 2000). One individual was seen well, perched in a tree, along the closed road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,400 m.

YELLOW-VENTED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*
Usual upper elevational limit: 1,100 m (Robson 2000). One individual was seen well at less than 10 m range in a single emergent tree along the closed road from 'The Gap' to Bukit Fraser at 1,400 m.

During the course of my visit, six other species were seen above their upper elevational limit as quoted in Robson (2000): Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas* seen at 1,500 m (usual upper limit 1,220 m); Rufous-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula solitaris* seen at 1,500 m (usual upper limit 1,400 m); Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina* seen at 1,450 m (usual upper limit 1,220 m); Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni* seen at 1,500 m (usual upper limit 1,300 m); Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis* seen at 1,350 m (usual upper limit 1,200 m); White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca* seen at 1,400 m (usual upper limit 1,220 m). However, these species are apparently regularly recorded around Bukit Fraser (K. S. Durai verbally 2003).

This unusual incident of a community-wide elevational displacement on a single day could possibly be related to global climate change, although more data will be needed to establish whether this is the case. I hope that this paper will alert field researchers to this phenomenon, so that vital data can be collected for future analysis.

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Abundance and seasonality of Indian Pond Herons *Ardeola grayii* with red legs in Uttar Pradesh, India

K. S. GOPI SUNDAR

The Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* is found commonly throughout the Indian subcontinent (Grimmett *et al.* 1998). The legs (tarsi and feet) of this species are usually dull green, but during the breeding season (March–September) they turn bright yellow. However, they 'sometimes show a salmon-pink flush early in the season' (Hancock and Kushlan 1984). Occasional reports of pink or red legs during the breeding season have been noted in southern and western India (Abdulali and Alexander 1952, Hancock and Kushlan 1984, Parasharya and Naik 1987, Wesley 1993, 1996, Relton 1996).

METHODS

I carried out observations of Indian Pond Herons in Etawah and Mainpuri districts, Uttar Pradesh, India between January 2000 and June 2002. The species was resident in the study area and common throughout the year, although the exact breeding season was not determined. Opportunistic observations were made of birds foraging in crop fields or natural wetlands from road transects totalling c.250 km 1–7 times a week (mean: three) during a study of the Sarus Crane *Grus antigone*. There was equal effort in all months and in all three years during this study. Hence, although the number of pond herons with yellow legs was not also recorded